region to have been still more separated formerly from Tennessee, the present headquarters of the American Melanians.

In this connection I might mention a matter to which Professor Theodore Gill of Washington directed my attention during a recent conversation; namely, whether the Californian Melanians do not belong to the old-world family *Melaniidæ* instead of to the American group *Strepomatidæ* (= *Ceriphasiidæ* Gill, *Pleuroceridæ* Fisher). I have found that certain features of the dentition of *G. plicifera*—the *trilobate* base of the rhachidian tooth—are more similar to the *Melaniidæ* than to the East American forms. I would, therefore, ask some western naturalist to observe whether the edge of the mantle be fringed or plain; or, if any one has alcoholic or even freshly dried specimens, and will communicate a few to me, I will announce the result of an examination through the pages of the NAUTILUS.

A FEW "NEVERS" FOR CONCHOLOGISTS.

BY DR. V. STERKI.

One or another of the following hints may be of service to younger students of Conchology, and also the older ones possibly will read them:—

Never dry your specimens in too great heat; they should be dried, but not fried. Not only the shell is liable to change color and to become utterly fragile, but also the "soft parts" are so changed as to be unfit for microscopic examination.

Never kill and dry them when the animals are still active: in this way the aperture may be filled up in a way that it is very difficult or even impossible to examine it; this is especially of importance in Pupidæ and other groups with lamellæ etc., in the aperture. When the specimens are kept dry in a box for a few days, they will retire deep enough in the shell to leave the aperture free.

Never pack up specimens without adding a label with the habitat and as much notice about its nature as possible. Without that, they may be worthless or even worse!—When Shuttleworth, that eminent English Conchologist, had died at Berne, Switzerland, the contents of several boxes of his valuable collections had to be destroyed (not thrown away!), because there were no labels with them, and the catalogues not to be found.

Never forward a lot of shells for examination, or in exchange, unless there be at least one mature specimen in good condition among them—if you have any such, of course. This is again especially of importance *e. g.* with Pupidæ where the lamellæ are of principal interest.

Never pack up small shells in a vial to be sent away unless you secure them in place with some cotton; the constant tossing and jarring cannot but damage them more or less.

Never pack a number of vials together in a box unless each one is wrapped in paper. In several instances I have received vials crushed to pieces and the contents scattered around.

Never oil your shells so that they soil or stick to anything they touch! not to speak of their entirely altered appearance. Very little oiling generally is needed—(by this I certainly do not mean Pupa, Vertigo, etc.!)

Never cork a vial containing living mollusca or such not thoroughly dried; not only a very offensive odor will develop, but generally the shells will be altered in appearance, color and consistency.

A NEW VARIETY OF HELIX CARPENTERI FROM SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA.

BY DR. LORENZO G. YATES, F. L. S., SANTA BARBARA, CAL.

The typical form of Helix (Arionta) Carpenteri, Newc. seems to belong to the peninsula of Lower California, although heretofore reported from "San Diego" and "Tulare Valley" California, and I have specimens of a variety which I collected in Napa County many years ago.

I now have a variety from the desert region near Indio, San Bernardino County, California, collected by Stephen Bowers, Ph. D.

These specimens agree with Dr. Newcomb's original description except in that, they do *not* show the "very minute spiral striations," which may however be consequent upon their dead and bleached condition.

They further differ in having an *entire* circular aperture instead of "aperture circular, with terminations approximating" as described by Newcomb.